

a recorded vote or on which the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONGRATULATING LUTHERAN SCHOOLS

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 106) congratulating Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 106

Whereas the Nation's Lutheran schools deliver high-quality education and challenge students to reach their potential;

Whereas there are 4,841 Lutheran early childhood centers, elementary schools, and secondary schools in the United States served by 40,076 teachers;

Whereas the Nation's total Lutheran school student enrollment is 572,877;

Whereas Lutheran schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, and morals by providing an environment that encourages honesty, trust, respect, and responsibility; and

Whereas the week beginning on March 2, 2003, has been established as National Lutheran Schools Week for the purpose of recognizing the vital contributions of the Nation's Lutheran early childhood education centers, elementary schools, and secondary schools: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of National Lutheran Schools Week, which is celebrated by several synods that have educational institutions, for the purpose of recognizing their academic achievement; and

(2) congratulates Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 106.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 106. This resolution honors Lutheran schools and their students, parents, teachers, administrators and congregations for their ongoing contributions to education.

I would like to thank the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the

Chairman of the Committee on Education, and the Workforce for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

In 1524, Martin Luther said that a city's best and greatest welfare, safety and strength consists rather in its having able, learned, wise, honorable and well-educated citizens. Lutheran churches and schools have long been active in meeting this mission by providing education opportunities as early as 1640 in what is now Delaware, my home State.

In Delaware, I am proud of the contributions of the nine Lutheran schools, the names of which I will submit here for the RECORD.

Concordia Lutheran Preschool, 3003 Silverside Rd, Wilmington, DE 19610, 302.478.3876.

Faith Lutheran Preschool, 2265 Red Lion Rd, Bear, DE 19701-1849, 302.834.3417.

Our Redeemer Preschool, 10 Johnson Rd, Newark, DE 19713, 302.737.617.

Little Ones Lutheran Preschool, 7 Bay Vista Road, Rehoboth Beach, DE, 302.226.7860.

St. John's Elementary School, 1156 Walker Rd, Dover, DE 19904, 302.734.3767.

St. John's Early Learning Center and Day Care, 119 Lotus St, Dover, DE 19901, 302.734.1211.

Hope Lutheran Child Care, 230 Christiana Rd., New Castle, DE 19720, 302/328-7909.

St. Paul's Lutheran School, 701 S. College Ave., Newark, DE 19713, 302/368-0553.

Zion Lutheran Preschool/Kindergarten, 2101 Lancaster Ave., Wilmington, DE 19805, 302/655-7874.

Lutheran schools deliver high quality education where individuals are challenged to reach their full academic potential. The Lutheran school system is the largest Protestant school system in the United States and consists of 4,841 early childhood centers, elementary schools and high schools, over 40,000 teachers and more than 570,000 teachers.

Lutheran schools serve a diverse population. For example, in the schools affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, one-third of the students and one-quarter of the staff are persons of color, many of whom are not Lutheran. In Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod affiliated schools, 44 percent of elementary school students and 37 percent of high school students are not Lutheran.

Lutheran schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values and morals by providing an environment that encourages honesty, trust, respect and responsibility.

National Lutheran Schools Week, celebrated this year from March 2 to March 8, recognizes the vital contributions of America's Lutheran early childhood education centers and elementary and secondary schools. We congratulate Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education and urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may con-

sume, and I rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) for introducing this resolution because it is a good resolution, and it gives me an opportunity to highlight the importance and value of education in our Nation.

H. Res. 106 recognizes the contribution of Lutheran schools to the mix of fine educational opportunities available to American children. We are very fortunate in the United States to have such a diverse system of education.

The goal of the education system in America, both public and private, is to give every child in every State the opportunity to succeed, and that recipe for success, Mr. Speaker, certainly includes Lutheran schools, as well as other religious schools, non-religious private schools and, of course, our public schools. It is this variety, this diversity that makes our education system a success and makes America a strong, strong Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize the educational contributions that Lutheran schools make to our Nation, let us recognize, too, the importance and value of all the many different types of schools in America and the contributions they make to the lives of our children and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the leadership of the committee for bringing this resolution to the floor in such a timely fashion.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of a Lutheran Elementary School myself, St. Paul's Lutheran School of Utica, Nebraska, and an individual well acquainted with the many first-rate Lutheran educational institutions in his congressional district, this Member rises today to congratulate Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education.

Lutherans have long been active in providing education for children. As mentioned by the distinguished gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the first Lutheran school was established in the colonies in 1640 by Swedish Lutherans, and it was located in the State of Delaware. There is evidence that Lutherans from Salzburg, Austria, started schools in what is now the southern part of the United States in the 1730s.

Pastor Henry Muhlenberg, known as the patriarch of the Lutheran Church and father of two members of the 1st

Congress, one the first Speaker of the House, established a significant number of Lutheran churches and schools in Pennsylvania.

□ 1415

By 1800, some 400 Lutheran schools dotted the east coast from New York to Georgia.

Today, our Nation has a total of 4,842 Lutheran schools, which are served by 40,076 teachers. This Member is proud of the 122 Lutheran early-education centers, elementary schools, and secondary schools in Nebraska, as well as the three Lutheran colleges and universities in this Member's district, and those Lutheran schools located throughout the Nation which deliver high-quality education opportunities and challenges students to reach their full academic and spiritual potential.

Not only are Lutheran schools known for their academic quality but for their ability to aid in their students' moral development. These institutions provide spiritual guidance to students, instilling fundamental values that are crucial to personal development. Through their education, Lutheran schoolchildren gain an appreciation of the importance in their lives of family values, community service, and in their religious faith. This in turn has helped shape students of Lutheran schools into good civic and educational leaders for America, past, present and future.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this Member urges his colleagues to support the resolution honoring the contributions of Lutheran schools in American education; and I thank the cosponsors of the resolution, which are numerous.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for bringing this piece of legislation rapidly to the floor. As my kids went to school yesterday, I got a chance to drop them off and in front was a big banner saying "Lutheran Schools Week." So I got to do it officially yesterday and I get to do it, I guess, officially now on the floor today; but I rise today in recognition of National Lutheran Schools Week, which began on March 2 of this week.

Mr. Speaker, I am a graduate of a Lutheran school, Holy Cross Lutheran School, in my hometown of Collinsville, Illinois. My father also attended this school. And a known fact is that my first grade teacher was my father's first grade teacher, a patriarch of education in Collinsville, Miss Bohland. It is a story I like to tell quite a lot. I also had a fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Richter, who taught me and who I tried to keep from retiring so that I could tell the same story for my sons, or so they could tell the same story. But she retired to an enjoyable life and is still very active in the church.

That is really something to be said, when you have that longevity in a teacher in a grade school. Two generations. And it is something that makes Lutheran schools a critical aspect of our society. My three sons now attend. David is 10, Joshua is 7, and Daniel will be attending next year in the preschool program, but who does get involved in the Sunday school program on Sunday and the weekends. My wife even teaches music at Holy Cross Lutheran School with the church programs and the choirs and all that stuff. So Lutheran schools have been a key component of my life for many, many years.

Before I became a Member of Congress, I returned to Illinois to teach government history at a Lutheran high school, Metro-East High School in Edwardsville, Illinois. As a teacher, I had the opportunity to instill the fundamental values and morals of the Christian faith, which is involved in the total educational aspect of the school. Parental involvement is key in Christian education; and Lutheran doctrine talks a lot about law and gospel, how we are condemned by the law but saved through God's saving grace, which is a critical aspect of the Christian faith, but it ties very neatly into the educational program.

In teaching kids to achieve all they can achieve, we know that you can never get 100 percent all the time, and there are failures along the way. That is where in the law and gospel aspect of education, the foundational principle of what makes Lutheran schools an exciting place to be, is that the constant love and compassion and actually the gospel aspect of forgiveness is involved in the educational setting.

Today, approximately 572,877 students attend Lutheran schools; and over 40,000 teachers provide an environment that encourages honesty, trust, respect, and responsibility. This also is a benefit to society because that are half a million kids that are not burdening, if we would call it a burden, to society. It is not an additional cost to the public school system. So the parents who choose Lutheran education, or perhaps Catholic education or other types of private schooling, take these kids out of the public school arena where more of the tax dollars can then work in public education, which I think is an additional benefit. Sometimes we forget that.

I am proud of the education that the students are able to receive from dedicated parents and teachers because of the efforts of Lutheran educators. Students throughout my district in central and southern Illinois receive spiritual guidance through an outstanding learning environment. I would like to congratulate the Lutheran schools, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their outstanding work in educating our youth.

One of the primary aspects of Martin Luther, when he changed the course of history, in essence the Protestant revo-

lution, was education of the great masses, actually the education of children and youth. That is why the Lutheran faith education has a critical pillar in what we do on a day-to-day basis.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I also thank the sponsor for bringing this legislation forward.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a new member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time, and I too want to join with my colleagues in congratulating Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, and members of the congregation for outstanding contributions they have made and continue to make in education.

In my congressional district, they are indeed the mainstay for early childhood education. Lutheran Family Services provides any number of early childhood education programs; and we are fortunate to have one of the top high schools in the State, Trinity Lutheran, in our congressional district, where practically all of the young people who come through end up going to college. It has been, and continues to be, an outstanding institution.

I want to commend and congratulate all of those who are a part of the Lutheran congregations for the outstanding contributions that they have made and continue to make to education.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to simply say that we support this resolution, and I am proud to be here doing that.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to thank the sponsor of the legislation and the other cosponsors with him, as well as all those who came to the floor to speak today about this subject of a great deal of significance in terms of education in this country; part of the overall global education that means so much to our young people. I encourage everybody to support this legislation.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lutheran Schools for their continuing contributions to educating young Americans. Lutheran schools impact not only the intellectual life of our Nation's youth but also their moral, physical, and social lives.

The Lutheran schools in Louisiana deliver high-quality education and challenge students to reach their potential. The administrators and faculty provide students an environment that encourages honesty, trust and responsibility.

This year more than half a million students in the United States will be enriched by their Lutheran school education. America's Lutheran schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and can boast a student-teacher ration of 14 to 1.

During National Lutheran Schools Week and throughout the year, I salute the Lutheran schools, students, parents, teachers, administrators, and congregations across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for allowing me to offer my comments congratulating Lutheran schools.

In his 1524 letter, "to the councilmen of all cities in Germany that they establish and maintain Christian schools," Martin Luther wrote, "My dear sirs, if we have to spend such large sums every year on guns, roads, bridges and dams, and countless items to ensure the temporal peace and prosperity of a city, why should not more be devoted to the poor neglected youth—at least enough to engage one or two competent men to teach school?"

Since this very humble request, the Lutheran Church's role in educating our young has flourished. There are currently 4,821 Lutheran schools operating in America, instructing over half a million students. These schools not only provide a traditional education, but also produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, and morals by providing an environment that encourages honesty, trust, respect, and responsibility.

In a world which faces such grave social, political, and economic choices as ours today, it is especially important to remember the words of Martin Luther and recognize the contribution that the Lutheran Church has made to education in our own Nation and around the world. I congratulate our Lutheran schools and I thank them for all that they have done for the spiritual and educational well-being of our youth.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 106.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION WEEK

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 54) expressing the sense of the Congress that there should be established an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 54

Whereas visiting nurse associations (VNAs) are nonprofit home health agencies that, for over 120 years, have been united in their mis-

sion to provide cost-effective and compassionate home and community-based health care to individuals, regardless of the individuals' condition or ability to pay for services;

Whereas there are more than 500 visiting nurse associations, which employ more than 90,000 clinicians, provide health care to more than 4,000,000 people each year, and provide a critical safety net in communities by developing a network of community support services that enable individuals to live independently at home;

Whereas visiting nurse associations have historically served as primary public health care providers in their communities, and are today one of the largest providers of mass immunizations in the medicare program (delivering over 2,500,000 influenza immunizations annually);

Whereas visiting nurse associations are often the home health providers of last resort, serving the most chronic of conditions (such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, AIDS, and quadriplegia) and individuals with the least ability to pay for services (more than 50 percent of all medicare home health admissions are by visiting nurse associations);

Whereas any visiting nurse association budget surplus is reinvested in supporting the association's mission through services, including charity care, adult day care centers, wellness clinics, Meals-on-Wheels, and immunization programs;

Whereas visiting nurse associations and other nonprofit home health agencies care for the highest percentage of terminally ill and bedridden patients;

Whereas thousands of visiting nurse association volunteers across the Nation devote time serving as individual agency board members, raising funds, visiting patients in their homes, assisting in wellness clinics, and delivering meals to patients;

Whereas the establishment of an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week would increase public awareness of the charity-based missions of visiting nurse associations and of their ability to meet the needs of chronically ill and disabled individuals who prefer to live at home rather than in a nursing home, and would spotlight preventive health clinics, adult day care programs, and other customized wellness programs that meet local community need; and

Whereas the second week in May is an appropriate week to establish as National Visiting Nurse Association Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that there should be established an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 54, introduced by my distinguished col-

league, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), expresses the sense of the Congress that there should be established an annual National Visiting Nurse Association Week.

Mr. Speaker, visiting nurses provide an invaluable medical service to countless people across our great country. For more than 120 years, these admirable citizens have helped to promote health and to prevent disease by providing skilled nursing care in the homes of millions of sick Americans each and every year. These caring nurses treat illnesses of all varieties, from the initial symptoms of the common cold and flu to the gravest stages of heart disease, of AIDS, and of cancer.

I would like to just give an example of one such person. Her name is Marcia Nowc, and she lives in my district, the Tenth Congressional District of Michigan; and she truly epitomizes the hard work and selflessness demonstrated by visiting nurses across our great country.

Her profession is nursing, and while she makes her living doing this, she also volunteers for an organization called Neighbors Caring for Neighbors Outreach Clinic. This clinic provides medical services, laboratory tests and x-rays to some of our most vulnerable families and individuals, often free of charge, thanks to the volunteer efforts of visiting nurses, like Mrs. Nowc. Nurse Nowc's volunteer activities are supported by 16 churches in Macomb County, Michigan; and oftentimes visiting nurses, just in their everyday work, truly demonstrate how faith-based initiatives can provide an essential support system within our communities.

Many of these visiting nurses literally work miracles every day because they give so generously of their time and of their spirit and because they recognize the dignity of every citizen and the possibilities of every life. Many times visiting nurses provide care to those that might be considered on the outer fringe. Perhaps they are underinsured; they may be the working poor or may even be homeless.

Visiting nurse associations are nonprofit home health agencies located throughout the United States that aim to enhance the quality of life of all through comprehensive home and community health services. Often, these organizations provide in-home services that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to Americans in need. It is truly worthwhile for this House to honor the compassion and the sense of obligation exhibited by visiting nurses for well over a century.

It is not an exaggeration to say that America's visiting nurses are some of our Nation's greatest treasures and greatest traditions. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 54.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.